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10/058,189

01/29/2002

Jonathan Goldstone

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7590

11/10/2005

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EXAMINER

POKRZYWA, JOSEPH R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/058,189	GOLDSTONE, JONATHAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph R. Pokrzywa	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/29/02</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Information Disclosure Statement*

1. The references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on 1/29/02 have been considered by the examiner (see attached PTO-1449).

### *Drawings*

2. The drawings received on 1/29/02 are acceptable by the examiner.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 11-13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gordon (U.S. Patent Number 5,608,786).

Regarding *claim 11*, Gordon discloses an electronic message retrieval method comprising in response to receiving an encrypted electronic message, alerting, with an alarm, a recipient of the receipt of the encrypted electronic message (column 9, line 18-column 10, line 65); determining, based on summary information about the encrypted electronic message whether to

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open the encrypted electronic message (column 9, line 18-column 10, line 65) and whether to have the encrypted electronic message converted into a format different than the format the encrypted electronic message is currently in (column 10, line 31-column 11, line 14).

Regarding *claim 12*, Gordon discloses the system discussed above in claim 11, and further teaches of providing a password to a message retrieving device of the recipient to render the message retrieving device operable to decrypt the encrypted electronic message (column 4, line 33-column 5, line 11), and converting the encrypted electronic message into a format compatible with a secondary device from a format which is incompatible with the secondary device (column 9, line 18-column 10, line 65).

Regarding *claim 13*, Gordon discloses the system discussed above in claim 11, and further teaches of indicating to said recipient whether the encrypted converted into a format compatible with a secondary incompatible with the secondary device (column 9, line 18-column 10, line 65).

5. **Claims 1 and 3-29** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wright *et al.* (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0016910).

Regarding *claim 1*, Wright discloses an electronic message retrieval system (see Fig. 5) comprising a sender operable to encrypt and transmit an electronic message, directed to a specified recipient, over a transmission medium (paragraphs 0019, 0057, and 0074-0075, see steps 500-506); a message retrieval device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message and provide an alarm message indicating receipt of the encrypted electronic message by the message retrieval device (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075); a secondary device operable

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to receive the alarm message from said message retrieval device and provide a secret password to said message retrieval device to initiate decryption of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0060-0063, 0068, and 0072-0078), wherein said message retrieval device is further operable to convert the format of the decrypted electronic message into a format different from a format of the encrypted electronic message and transmit the converted decrypted electronic message to a device compatible to receive communications in the different format (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

Regarding *claim 3*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the message retrieval device comprises a converter device operable to convert the format of the decrypted electronic message into a format recognized by the secondary device; and an output unit from which the converted decrypted electronic message is provided to the secondary device (paragraphs 0060-0063, 0068, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 4*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches that the sender encrypts the electronic message in accordance with a specified electronic key and said message retrieval device decrypts the encrypted electronic message using said specified electronic key (paragraphs 0060-0063, 0068, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 5*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches of a password transmission unit operable to transmit a password to said specified recipient (paragraphs 0060-0063, 0068, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 6*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 5, and further teaches of a password transmission path through which the secret password is transmitted to said recipient, and a message transmission path, different from said password transmission path,

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through which said decrypted electronic message is provided to the recipient (paragraphs 0060-0063, 0068, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 7*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 6, and further teaches that the password is generated by the sender and communicated to the password transmission unit in a message different from the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0060-0063, 0068, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 8*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the transmission medium is the Internet (see Fig. 5).

Regarding *claim 9*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 1, and further teaches that the encrypted electronic message comprises an indication as to whether the encrypted electronic message can be converted into a different format (paragraphs 0060-0063, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 10*, Wright discloses an electronic message retrieval system (see Fig. 5) comprising a sender operable to encrypt and transmit an electronic message directed to a specified recipient (paragraphs 0019, 0057, and 0074-0075, see steps 500-506), a message retrieval device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message and provide an alarm message to a secondary device when the encrypted electronic message is received by the message retrieval device (paragraphs 0061, 0068, and 0078), wherein said secondary device is operable to receive messages in a format different from the format of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078), said message retrieval device comprising; a converter device operable to convert the encrypted electronic message into a format recognized by the secondary device (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078), and a decryption device

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operable to decrypt the encrypted electronic message upon receipt of a password (paragraphs 0061, 0068, and 0078); said electronic message retrieval system further comprising a secure device operable to receive and decrypt the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0076-0078), wherein said secure device is operable to receive messages in the same format as the format of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

Regarding *claim 11*, Wright discloses an electronic message retrieval method comprising in response to receiving an encrypted electronic message, alerting, with an alarm, a recipient of the receipt of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075); determining, based on summary information about the encrypted electronic message whether to open the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075) and whether to have the encrypted electronic message converted into a format different than the format the encrypted electronic message is currently in (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

Regarding *claim 12*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 11, and further teaches of providing a password to a message retrieving device of the recipient to render the message retrieving device operable to decrypt the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0076-0078), and converting the encrypted electronic message into a format compatible with a secondary device from a format which is incompatible with the secondary device (paragraphs 0076-0078).

Regarding *claim 13*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 11, and further teaches of indicating to said recipient whether the encrypted converted into a format compatible with a secondary incompatible with the secondary device (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

Regarding *claim 14*, Wright discloses an electronic message retrieval method comprising sending an encrypted electronic message over a communication network to a recipient's message retrieving device (paragraphs 0019, 0057, and 0074-0075, see steps 500-506); alerting, with an alarm, a recipient of the receipt of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075); determining, based on summary information included in the alarm, whether to defer retrieval of the encrypted electronic message or retrieve the encrypted electronic message immediately (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075); and if it is determined that retrieval of the encrypted electronic message is to be deferred, receiving and decrypting said encrypted electronic message on a secure machine (paragraphs 0072, and 0074-0075); or if it is determined that retrieval of the encrypted electronic message is to be performed immediately, providing a password to the recipient's message retrieving device to render the recipient's message retrieving device operable to decrypt the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0076-0078), and converting the encrypted electronic message into a format compatible with a secondary device from a format which is incompatible with the secondary device (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

Regarding *claim 15*, Wright discloses an electronic message retrieval system (see Fig. 5) comprising sender operable to encrypt and transmit an electronic message over communication network directed to a specified recipient (paragraphs 0019, 0057, and 0074-0075, see steps 500-506), a message retrieval device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message and provide an alarm message to a secondary device when the encrypted electronic message is received by the message retrieval device (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075), a proxy device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message from the message retrieval device when the



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recipient provides a proxy instruction to said message retrieval device and operable to decrypt and transmit a decrypted electronic message to said recipient when the recipient provides a password to said proxy device (paragraphs 0030-0031, and 0075-0078).

Regarding *claim 16*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches of a secure device operable to receive and decrypt the encrypted electronic message, wherein said secure device is operable to receive messages in the same format as the format of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075).

Regarding *claim 17*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches that the said encryption is performed by the sender using a publicly accessible key associated with the recipient (paragraphs 0060-0063, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 18*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 15, and further teaches that said proxy decrypts said encrypted electronic message by using a private key securely stored on said proxy (paragraphs 0060-0063, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 19*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 3, and further teaches that said secondary device is operable to receive messages in a format different from the format of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

Regarding *claim 20*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 15, and further teaches that said proxy device comprises a converter device operable to convert the encrypted electronic message into a format recognized by the secondary device (paragraphs 0060-0063, and 0072-0078); and a decryption device operable to decrypt an encrypted private key associated with the recipient and also decrypt the encrypted electronic message, wherein the

decryption device is activated upon receipt of a password (paragraphs 0060-0063, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 21*, Wright discloses an electronic message retrieval system (see Fig. 5) comprising sender operable to encrypt and transmit an electronic message over communication network directed to a specified recipient (paragraphs 0019, 0057, and 0074-0075, see steps 500-506), wherein said encryption is performed using a publicly accessible key associated with the recipient (paragraphs 0054 and 0059-0062), a message retrieval device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message and provide an alarm message to a secondary device when the encrypted electronic message is received by the message receive messages in a format different from the format of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075); a proxy device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message from the message retrieval device when the recipient provides a proxy instruction (paragraphs 0030-0031, and 0075-0078), said proxy device comprising a converter device operable to convert the encrypted electronic message into a format recognized by the secondary device (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078), and a decryption device operable to decrypt an encrypted private key associated with the recipient and also decrypt the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0061, 0068, and 0078), wherein the decryption device is activated upon receipt of a password (paragraphs 0076-0078), said electronic message retrieval system further comprising; a secure device operable to receive and decrypt the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0076-0078), wherein said secure device is operable to receive messages in the same format as the format of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

Regarding *claim 22*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 21, and further teaches of a third party authority operable to receive said encrypted electronic message from said proxy device and decrypt the encrypted electronic message using a public key corresponding to said proxy device (paragraphs 0060-0063, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 23*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 22, and further teaches that said third party authority is located in a legal jurisdiction other than a legal jurisdiction in which said recipient is located (paragraphs 0077-0078).

Regarding *claim 24*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 22, and further teaches that said third party authority is operable to receive a reference designation corresponding to said encrypted electronic message along with said encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0060-0063, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 25*, Wright discloses the system discussed above in claim 24, and further teaches that said third party authority is operable to receive said reference designation corresponding to said encrypted electronic message from said specified recipient and said decryption of said encrypted electronic message is controlled in accordance with the reference designation received from said specified recipient (paragraphs 0060-0063, and 0072-0078).

Regarding *claim 26*, Wright discloses an electronic message retrieval method comprising sending an encrypted electronic message over a communication network to a recipient's message retrieving device (paragraphs 0019, 0057, and 0074-0075, see steps 500-506), wherein said encryption is performed using one of a plurality of publicly accessible keys associated with the recipient (paragraphs 0054 and 0059-0062); alerting the recipient, with an alarm, of the receipt of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075); determining, based

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on summary information included in the alarm, whether to defer retrieval of the encrypted electronic message or retrieve the encrypted electronic message immediately (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075); and if it is determined that retrieval of the encrypted electronic message is to be deferred, receiving and decrypting said encrypted electronic message on a secure machine (paragraphs 0072, and 0074-0075); or if it is determined that retrieval of the encrypted electronic message is to be performed immediately, providing one of a plurality of passwords to a proxy device (paragraphs 0076-0078); decrypting, in said proxy device, a private encrypted key associated with the recipient to render the proxy operable to decrypt the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0076-0078); and converting the encrypted electronic message into a format compatible with a secondary device from a format which is incompatible with the secondary device (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

Regarding *claim 27*, Wright discloses an electronic message retrieval system (see Fig. 5) comprising a sender operable to encrypt and transmit an electronic message over a communication network directed to a specified recipient (paragraphs 0019, 0057, and 0074-0075, see steps 500-506), wherein said encryption is performed using one of a plurality of publicly accessible keys associated with the recipient (paragraphs 0054 and 0059-0062); a message retrieval device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message and provide an alarm message to a secondary device when the encrypted electronic message is received by the message retrieval device (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075), wherein said secondary device is operable to receive messages in a format different from the format of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078); a proxy device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message from the message retrieval device when the recipient provides a

proxy instruction (paragraphs 0030-0031, and 0075-0078), said proxy device comprising a converter device operable to convert the encrypted electronic message into a format recognized by the secondary device (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078); and a decryption device operable to decrypt a plurality of encrypted private keys associated with the recipient and also decrypt the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0061, 0068, and 0078), wherein the decryption device is activated upon receipt of one of a plurality of passwords respectively associated with said encrypted private keys (paragraphs 0060-0063, 0068, and 0072-0078); said electronic message retrieval system further comprising a secure device operable to receive and decrypt the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0060-0063, 0068, and 0072-0078), wherein said secure device is operable to receive messages in the same format as the format of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

Regarding *claim 28*, Wright discloses an electronic message retrieval method comprising sending an encrypted electronic message over a communication network to a recipient's message retrieving device (paragraphs 0019, 0057, and 0074-0075, see steps 500-506), wherein said encryption is performed using one of a plurality of publicly accessible keys associated with the recipient (paragraphs 0054 and 0059-0062); alerting the recipient, with an alarm, of the receipt of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075); determining, based on summary information included in the alarm, whether to defer retrieval of the encrypted electronic message or retrieve the encrypted electronic message immediately (paragraphs 0070-0072, and 0074-0075); and if it is determined that retrieval of the encrypted electronic message is to be deferred, receiving and decrypting said encrypted electronic message on a secure machine (paragraphs 0072, and 0074-0075); or if it is determined that retrieval of the encrypted electronic

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message is to be performed immediately, providing one of a plurality of passwords to a proxy device, said provided password being associated with the publicly accessible key used to encrypt the message (paragraphs 0076-0078); decrypting, in said proxy device and upon receipt of said password, a private encrypted key associated with the publicly accessible key used to encrypt the message to render the proxy operable to decrypt the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0076-0078); and converting the encrypted electronic message into a format compatible with a secondary device from a format which is incompatible with the secondary device (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

Regarding *claim 29*, Wright discloses an electronic message retrieval system (see Fig. 5) comprising sender operable to encrypt and transmit an electronic message, directed to a specified recipient, over a transmission medium (paragraphs 0019, 0057, and 0074-0075, see steps 500-506); a message retrieval device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message and provide an alarm message to a secondary device indicating that the encrypted electronic message has been received by the message retrieval device (paragraphs 0072, and 0074-0075); a message retrieval device operable to receive an alternate version of said encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078), wherein said alternate version of said encrypted message is in a format different from a format of the encrypted electronic message (paragraphs 0030-0031, 0075, and 0078).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1 and 2** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nelson *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 6,741,705) in view of Gordon (U.S. Patent Number 5,608,786).

Regarding **claim 1**, Nelson discloses an electronic message retrieval system (see Fig. 1, and abstract) comprising a sender operable to encrypt and transmit an electronic message, directed to a specified recipient, over a transmission medium (see Fig. 4, column 6, lines 1-55); a message retrieval device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message (step 210 in Fig. 4, column 6, lines 1-55) and provide an alarm message indicating receipt of the encrypted electronic message by the message retrieval device (step 304 in Fig. 5, column 6, line 56-column 7, line 30); a secondary device operable to receive the alarm message from said message retrieval device and provide a secret password to said message retrieval device to initiate decryption of the encrypted electronic message (steps 305-318 in Fig. 5, column 7, lines 5-56), wherein said message retrieval device is further operable to transmit the converted decrypted electronic message to a device compatible to receive communications (step 320 in Fig. 5, column 3, lines 23-48, and column 7, line 31-column 8, line 5).

However, Nelson fails to expressly disclose if the message retrieval device is further operable to convert the format of the decrypted electronic message into a format different from a

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format of the encrypted electronic message and transmit the converted decrypted electronic message to a device compatible to receive communications in the different format.

Gordon discloses an electronic message retrieval system (UniPost access node, see Fig. 1) comprising a sender operable to encrypt and transmit an electronic message, directed to a specified recipient, over a transmission medium (column 9, lines 18-62); a message retrieval device operable to receive the encrypted electronic message and provide an alarm message indicating receipt of the encrypted electronic message by the message retrieval device (column 9, line 34-column 10, line 65); a secondary device operable to receive the alarm message from said message retrieval device and provide a secret password to said message retrieval device (column 9, line 34-column 10, line 65), wherein said message retrieval device is further operable to convert the format of the decrypted electronic message into a format different from a format of the encrypted electronic message and transmit the converted decrypted electronic message to a device compatible to receive communications in the different format (column 4, line 33-column 5, line 11).

Nelson & Gordon are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being systems that allow users to retrieve stored messages. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the conversion teachings of Gordon in the system of Nelson. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Nelson's system would become more economical in retrieving messages, as a user could receive various types of messages in one format, eliminating long distance calls by the user, as recognized by Gordon in column 11, lines 6-14. Therefore, it would have been obvious to



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combine the teachings of Gordon in the system of Nelson to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding *claim 2*, Nelson and Gordon disclose the system discussed above in claim 1, and Gordon further teaches that the different format includes, an audible format, a facsimile format, and a text format (column 4, line 33-column 5, line 11, and column 10, line 30-column 11, line 5).

Nelson & Gordon are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being systems that allow users to retrieve stored messages. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the conversion teachings of Gordon in the system of Nelson. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Nelson's system would become more economical in retrieving messages, as a user could receive various types of messages in one format, eliminating long distance calls by the user, as recognized by Gordon in column 11, lines 6-14. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Gordon in the system of Nelson to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

#### ***Citation of Pertinent Prior Art***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

**Azuma** (U.S Patent Application Publication 2002/0004899) discloses a secure mail proxy system; and

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**Toyota *et al.*** (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0124167) discloses an encrypted mail transmission system.

### ***Conclusion***

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7410. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (571) 272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jrp

Joseph R. Pokrzywa  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2622

